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Wellington Rural District Council



Annual Report
of the
Medical Officer of Health
for the Year 1943

By R. De Veil King, M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P., D.P.H.

WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT COUNCIL.

ANNUAL REPORT OF THE MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH FOR 1943.

Medical Officer of Health—

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Sanitary Inspector—

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Clerk of the Council—

P. WITCHELL ORCHARD, A.R.V.A.,

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Chairman of the Council—

F. D. THOMAS, ESQ., J.P.

HIGHER FORD, WIVELISCOMBE, SOM.

Chairman of the Public Health Committee—

CAPTAIN J. WYNDHAM, J.P.,

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WELLINGTON RURAL DISTRICT.

STATISTICS FOR THE YEAR 1943.

Area (in Acres)	37,911
Estimate of Resident Population, Mid-year 1943 ..	8,130
Census Population, 1931	7,525
Number of Inhabited Houses according to the Rate Books on December 31st, 1943	2,201
Rateable Value, 31st December, 1943	£29,900
Sum represented by a Penny Rate, 31st Dec., 1943	£132-16s.-3d.

EXTRACTS FROM THE VITAL STATISTICS OF THE YEAR.

Live Births:—	<i>Total</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	} Birth Rate per 1,000 of the estimated resident population 14.88
Legitimate	108	60	48	
Illegitimate	13	4	9	
	—	—	—	
	121	64	57	
	—	—	—	

Still Births—Total .. 3.

Rate per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births .. 24.19

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 0.36

Deaths—Total .. 94.

Rate per 1,000 of the estimated Resident Population 11.56

Deaths from Puerperal Causes—Total .. Nil.

From Puerperal Sepsis—Rate per 1,000 Births .. Nil.

From other Puerperal Causes—Rate per 1,000 Births .. Nil.

Deaths of Infants under one year of age—Total .. 3

Legitimate 3

Illegitimate Nil

Rate for all Infants per 1,000 Live Births .. 24.79

,, ,, Legitimate Infants per 1,000 legitimate
Live Births 24.79

,, ,, Illegitimate Infants per 1,000 illegitimate
Live Births .. Nil

Deaths from Cancer (all ages) 15

,, ,, Measles (all ages) Nil

,, ,, Whooping Cough (all ages) Nil

,, ,, Diarrhoea (under two years of age) .. Nil

Rates for England and Wales as a whole:—

Live Births per 1,000 Civilian Population ..	16.5
Still Births ,, ,, ,, ..	0.54
Deaths, all causes	12.1
Maternal mortality, all causes, per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	2.29
Infant Mortality per 1,000 total (Live and Still) Births	49.6

CAUSES OF DEATH DURING 1943.

<i>Cause of Death</i>	<i>M.</i>	<i>F.</i>	<i>Total</i>
Typhoid and paratyphoid fevers.....	—	—	—
Cerebro-spinal fever.....	—	—	—
Scarlet fever.....	—	—	—
Whooping cough	—	—	—
Diphtheria	—	—	—
Tuberculosis of the respiratory system	1	—	1
Other forms of tuberculosis	1	—	1
Syphilitic diseases	—	—	—
Influenza	2	—	2
Measles	—	—	—
Acute poliomyelitis and polioencephalitis ..	—	—	—
Acute infectious encephalitis.....	—	—	—
Cancer of buccal cavity, oesophagus, uterus	1	1	2
Cancer of stomach and duodenum	—	—	—
Cancer of breast	—	1	1
Cancer of all other sites	4	8	12
Diabetes	1	—	1
Intra-cranial vascular lesions	1	9	10
Heart disease	15	10	25
Other disease of the circulatory system....	4	3	7
Bronchitis	—	4	4
Pneumonia	5	2	7
Other respiratory disease	1	—	1
Ulcer of stomach or duodenum	—	—	—
Diarrhoea (under 2 years)	—	—	—
Appendicitis	—	1	1
Other digestive disease	1	1	2
Nephritis	1	—	1
Puerperal and post abortion sepsis	—	—	—
Other maternal causes	—	—	—
Premature birth	1	—	1
Congenital malformation, birth injuries, etc.	1	1	2
Suicide	1	1	2
Road traffic accidents.....	3	—	3
Other violent causes	1	1	2
All other causes	3	3	6
All causes—Total	48	46	94

INFANT MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Cause of Death	Under 1 week	1 to 2 weeks	2 to 3 weeks	3 to 4 weeks	Total under 4 weeks	1 to 3 months	3 to 6 months	6 to 9 months	9 - 12 months	Total under 1 year
Neo-Natal Haemorrhage....	—	1	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	1
Congenital Heart Disease....	—	—	—	1	1	—	—	—	—	1
Prematurity	—	—	—	—	—	1	—	—	—	1
	—	1	—	1	2	1	—	—	—	3

PROVISION OF HEALTH SERVICES FOR THE AREA.

The Hospitals, Clinics, Treatment Centres and Ambulance facilities remain as described in the Report for 1938. The area being one of the Reception Districts for Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme, provision is made at Avondale Sick Bay, Wellington, for the reception of cases of Impetigo, Scabies, etc.

SANITARY CIRCUMSTANCES OF THE AREA.

Circular 2773 from the Ministry of Health states that no reference should be made to activities in connection with war-time extensions of water supply or sewerage works or other public utility undertakings. Public cleansing was described in the Report for 1938. Refuse collections were suspended during 1943 except in Milverton and Wiveliscombe.

A total of 157 tons 8½ cwt. has been salvaged during the year by the Council and Toc H, the cash value of this being £772 - 6s. - 0d. and made up as follows:—

	<i>District Council.</i>		<i>Toc H.</i>	
	<i>Tons.Cwt.</i>		<i>Tons.Cwt.</i>	
Waste Paper	42	14	32	17
Rags, Sacking, etc. ..	7	4	2	5
Iron	56	8	1	10
Bones	4	4	2	5
Non-ferrous Metals		5½	—	—
Rubber	5	12	2	0
Jam Jars		4	—	—
Total	116	11½	40	17

SANITARY INSPECTION OF THE AREA.

The Sanitary Inspector's Report is as follows:—

Nature and Number of Inspections during the year:—

Dwelling-houses	..	..	..	..	85
Dwelling-houses re-inspected	..	..	..	..	119
Slaughter-houses	..	..	..	..	17
Bakehouses	..	..	..	..	21
Dairies, Cowsheds and Milkshops	..	..	..	..	37
Factories and Workshops	..	..	..	..	7
Miscellaneous Nuisances	..	..	..	..	89
Disinfection of Premises	..	..	..	..	38

Number of Notices served during the year:—

Informal Notices	..	..	..	..	51
Statutory Notices	..	..	..	..	9

Result of Notices served:—

Complied with	..	..	..	..	42
In hand	..	..	..	..	21

Of the 38 Premises disinfected, 11 were for Scabies (against 20 during 1942), 1 for fleas and 1 for flies.

HOUSING.

The Council have under consideration the building of 50 houses during the first year after the war and another 100 during the second year, to meet post-war needs. A further housing survey of the District will have to be made for the ascertainment of the number of unfit dwelling-houses remaining over and above those already condemned as unfit. Of the latter, 94 houses in confirmed Clearance Areas have not yet been demolished. Twenty-two of these have been requisitioned by the Council to house families of Evacuees under the Government Evacuation Scheme. Repairs to these to make them temporarily habitable, have been executed under Regulation 68A. of the Defence (General) Regulations, 1939. One of these houses was dealt with in this way during 1943.

A shortage of houses appears to exist as evidenced by the number of applications for Council Houses. One case of overcrowding was found during the year and abated. During 1943 a large number of Evacuees left the District to return to their own homes, thus reducing the chances of overcrowding.

AGRICULTURAL COTTAGES.

During the year the Council were authorised to build 4 cottages for agricultural workers; these were duly erected at Ham, West Buckland, and occupied on December 16th. The rents are 10/- per week exclusive of rates, the cottages being parlour type.

TENTS, VANS AND SHEDS.

An appeal against a decision of the Council not to issue a Licence under Section 269 of the Public Health Act, 1936, was heard by the Wellington Magistrates on 26th March, 1943, in connexion with the establishment of a collection of sheds and vans at Hockaller, West Buckland. The Council's action was upheld and the appellant subsequently removed the erections.

INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

MILK SUPPLY.—37 inspections were made to 198 registered milk producing premises during the year, and 48 samples of milk were taken and examined by the County Bacteriologist. The Bacteriological analysis of the samples is shown in the following table:—

<i>Designation.</i>	<i>No. of Samples taken.</i>	<i>No. found satisfactory</i>	<i>No. found unsatisfactory</i>	<i>Percentage unsatisfactory</i>
Tuberculin Tested	17	15	2	11.76
Accredited	22	15	7	46.66
Pasteurised	3	2	1	33.33
Examined for tubercle bacilli	6	6	—	—
Totals ..	48	38	10	20.83

The number of unsatisfactory samples of Accredited Milk is a bad feature.

Tuberculosis Order, 1925.—No cows had to be slaughtered during the year under this Order.

Milk and Dairies Order, 1926.—

Number of Producers on the Register .. 198

Number of Distributors divided as follows:—

Distributors only 2

Distributors who are also producers .. 86

Milk (Special Designations) Order, 1936 and 1938.—Under these Orders, the following Licences are in force in the District and issued by the County Council:—

Licences: Tuberculin Tested producers .. 9

Accredited producers 9

In addition there is one Supplementary Licence issued by the Local Authority for the Sale of Pasteurised Milk in the District, but which is not produced therein.

MEAT SUPPLY.—There are 8 Licensed Slaughter-houses in the District, but owing to the present emergency no regular slaughtering is carried out in them; slaughtering and meat inspection are done in Taunton Borough and Rural District. 88 tins of canned meat were condemned as unfit for human consumption and disposed in accordance with present war-time regulations.

BAKEHOUSES.—There are 9 in the District and 21 inspections were made to them.

CHEMICAL AND BACTERIOLOGICAL EXAMINATION OF FOOD.—The County Council undertakes this work. With the exception of samples of milk, no other foods were sent to the County Laboratory for examination during the year.

PREVALENCE OF INFECTIOUS DISEASES.

The following gives the number of notifications for notifiable infectious diseases (other than Tuberculosis) during the year, and the rates per 1,000 of the estimated civilian population compared with similar rates for England and Wales as a whole.

<i>Disease.</i>	<i>No. of Notifications.</i>	<i>Rates per 1,000 estimated Civilian Population.</i>	
		<i>Wellington R.D.</i>	<i>E.&W.</i>
Measles	23	2.82	9.88
Scarlet Fever	22	2.70	3.01
Whooping Cough	5	0.61	2.54
Pneumonia	4	0.49	1.34
Cerebro-Spinal Fever	1	0.12	0.08
Erysipelas	1	0.12	0.31

Scarlet Fever was more prevalent than usual, but was distributed widely. Six of the cases were amongst children too young to attend School, 5 cases occurred in a Private School in Milverton, 4 cases attended Milverton Council School, 3 cases attended Wiveliscombe Council School, 1 attended Bath-ealton School, 2 attended Schools outside the District, and 1 was an adult, the disease being contracted outside the District.

It may be noted that no cases of Diphtheria occurred within the District.

Diphtheria Immunisation.—Under the County Council Scheme, 80 infants from 0-4 years inclusive and 14 children from 5-14 inclusive, were immunised against Diphtheria during 1943. Since the initiation of the Scheme in 1941 up to June, 1943, the total number of Pre-School children immunised aged 0-4 years inclusive was 194, and School children aged 5-14 inclusive was 790. The Pre-school and School populations are difficult to arrive at but the Ministry of Health have supplied some figures relating to these two age groups based on returns received in connection with the special issue of Ration Books and are approximate only. From these figures it appears that 21.0 % of Pre-school children and 56.6 % of School children have been immunised. These percentages are low.

TUBERCULOSIS. NEW CASES AND MORTALITY DURING 1943.

Age Periods..	NEW CASES.				DEATHS.			
	Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.		Respiratory.		Non-Respiratory.	
	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.	M.	F.
0—1	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
1—5	—	—	2	—	—	—	1	—
5—10	—	—	1	—	—	—	—	—
10—15	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
15—20	—	—	—	2	—	—	—	—
20—25	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
25—35	—	1	—	—	—	—	—	—
35—45	—	2	—	—	—	—	—	—
45—55	1	—	—	—	1	—	—	—
55 & upwards	—	—	—	—	—	—	—	—
Totals.....	1	5	3	2	1	—	1	—

The Tuberculosis Register shows that at the end of the year there were residing in the District—43 cases of Pulmonary Tuberculosis and 24 cases of Non-Pulmonary Tuberculosis.

No action had to be taken under the Public Health (Prevention of Tuberculosis) Regulations, 1925, relating to persons suffering from Pulmonary Tuberculosis employed in the Milk trade, or under Sec. 172 of the Public Health Act, 1936, relating to the compulsory removal to Hospital of persons suffering from Tuberculosis.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL.

This District being one of the Constituent Authorities, the Board's Annual Report for 1943 is appended to this Report.

TAUNTON AND DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL BOARD.

Report of the Medical Superintendent for the year ended 31st December, 1943.

MR. CHAIRMAN, LADIES AND GENTLEMEN,

Hospital administration during the year ending December 31st, 1943, has not been easy owing to the difficulty of obtaining Staff, Nursing and Domestic, in quantity and quality. Nevertheless the Board's new Matron has met these War-time difficulties with cheerfulness and good administration and the Staff as a whole may be congratulated on the work accomplished during the year, and their help to me.

It may be noted that during the year under review there were 301 admissions and 8,847 patient days compared with 259 admissions and 7,289 patient days in 1942.

There were 4 deaths from the following Diseases:—Meningitis due to Tuberculosis 2, Puerperal Sepsis 1, Congenital Syphilis 1.

Three operations were performed, one Caesarian Section by Mr. Lailey, and two Tonsillectomies by Mr. Graeme Allan.

A tabulated statement as to the Infectious Diseases admitted to the Isolation Hospital during the year is appended at the end of this Report, as well as the admissions, discharges and deaths at the Sanatorium.

I have the honour to be,

Mr. Chairman, Ladies and Gentlemen,

Your obdeient Servant,

R. DE V. KING,

Medical Superintendent.

The Isolation Hospital,

Cheddon Road, Taunton.

14.3.44.

TUBERCULOSIS SANATORIUM.

Admissions.	Males.....	20
	Females.....	12
		—
		32
Discharged.	Males.....	9
	Females	7
		—
		16
Deaths.	Males.....	9
	Females	5
		—
		14
		—

Total Patients Days—6998.

Artificial Pneumo-Thorax Refills—63.

TAUNTON & DISTRICT JOINT ISOLATION HOSPITAL BOARD.

TABULATED STATEMENT FOR 1943.

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